

Biomass Harvest Guidelines Sub-Group Meeting  
June 1, 2010  
DNRC Missoula, 9-11 am

Attendees: Julie K, Paul M, Steve H, Roger Z, Angela F, Carla M, Meredith W, Joe K, Jeff S, Rob E  
By phone: Jason T, Brian S

Minutes

Julie presented the strawman and reviewed it with the group, seeking thoughts/input on structure and whether/not all topics of concern were represented.

In Soil section: remove considerations that are already addressed in BMPs, which leaves the third section on nutrient considerations. Meredith mentioned a few thoughts that she had shared w/Jeff S on the soil section—think about local climate regimes. Keep recommendation to return slash to skid trails. **Jeff and Meredith will work together to draft a 1-3 page technical report on soil risks related to biomass harvest to be completed and sent to Julie for distribution to the sub-group by Friday, June 18. Joe K suggested inclusion of soil carbon as issue of concern and will work with Jeff and Meredith to share studies he has on soil carbon flux and sequestration.**

Group agreed on definition of biomass with deletion of reference to “lower valued trees...”. **Julie will check to be sure this aligns with definition of biomass in newly revised BMPs.**

Steve Hayes mentioned that BBER is working on 2010 Timber Harvest report and will have 2010 numbers on harvest/landownership by September.

Joe K suggested we include in the Introduction a paragraph addressing why we are concerned and going through this process—ie. in anticipation of more interest and pressure in biomass harvesting. (federal law, CFLRP, renewable energy/green tags/utilities, etc.)

Meredith added the Clean Water Act and Endangered Species Act to listing of rules/regs related to forest management.

General thoughts/discussion:

- This document represents a process that the state has gone through—the thinking, considerations in expectation of increased biomass harvest in the state and issues of concern raised by conservation groups and the public.
- Re-affirm success of existing voluntary guidelines.
- don't repeat BMPs—refer to them as a reference
- looks like we have two different audience populations: 1) concerned citizens/policy makers and 2) landowners (NIPF), forest contractors, equipment operators

**Paul and Jason will talk with Montana Forest Council at their next June 16 meeting about their current efforts on harvest practices and publications and see if there is potential for the Biomass Harvest Guidelines sub-group to work with them on related efforts especially as they relate to wildlife.**

**Julie will restructure the guidelines document according to Paul's suggestion:**

- 1) State the role of biomass in x,y,z...
- 2) state risks to x/y/z with biomass removal
- 3) provide recommendations for harvest practices

Develop educational handouts—create series of 1-2 page pamphlets specific to certain concerns: wildlife habitat, soil productivity. These can be handed to NIPFs as they relate to their concerns, desire for knowledge/guidance.

**Julie will talk to Ross Batty, Wildlife Biologist, State Trust Lands about wildlife considerations, existing rules/regs, publications, draft Habitat Conservation Plan**